

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and discussions to follow, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-11, which remain in the application, have been advanced to a condition for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the substance of now cancelled Claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Claim 5 has been amended to depend on Claim 1 instead of the now cancelled Claim 3. Claim 6 which now depends on amended Claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 10 has been amended by replacing the term "leathers" with the term "leather".

Claims remaining in the application, to the extent that they depend on Claim 1, stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the claims are alleged to be unclear as to what is meant by the term "according to DIN 53338". Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the skilled artisan can readily ascertain the metes and bounds of the claims reciting the term "according to DIN 53338"; therefore, the claims are definite.

The term "according to DIN 53338" is a reference to an official German testing standard for the determination of the behaviour of leather against water under a dynamic stress in a penetrometer. More specifically, the official leather test methods of the German Standard Committee are denoted by the letters DIN. These testing methods, in the main, are in conformance with the official methods of International Leather Chemists' Societies for chemical analysis which is denoted as IUP. DIN 53338 conforms to the international standard IUP/10. As such, the skilled artisan would find the term definite. To augment the above arguments Applicants provide herewith publications as Appendix 1 (in German but with a pertinent English abstract), Appendix 2 (particularly at page 3) and Appendix 3. In view of the foregoing showing that the terms are definite, Applicants pray for the withdrawal of the rejection.

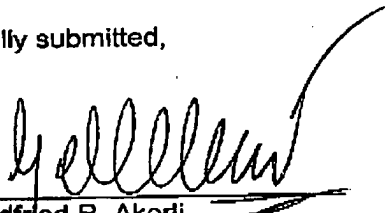
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In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims remaining in the application are patentably distinct and, therefore, pray for their allowance.

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